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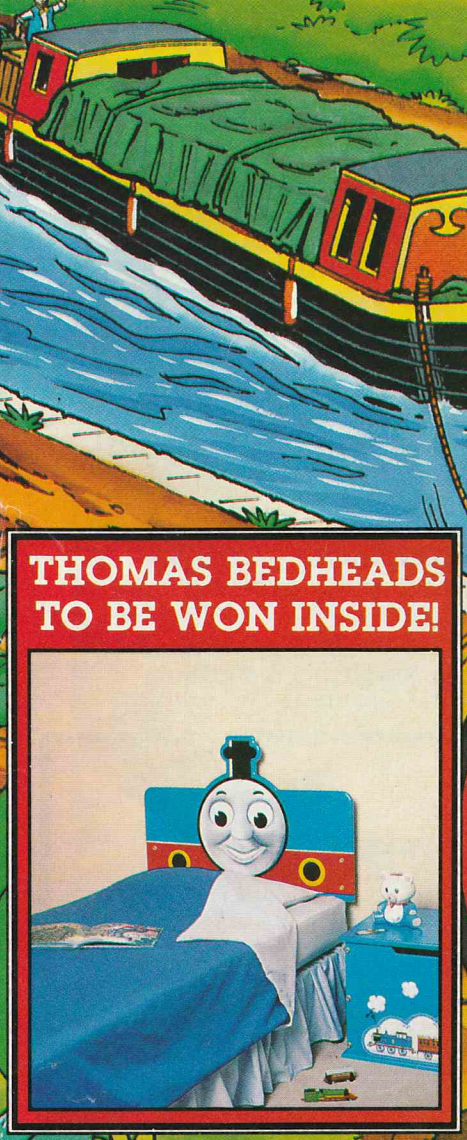
18th July 1992
№ 124 55p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



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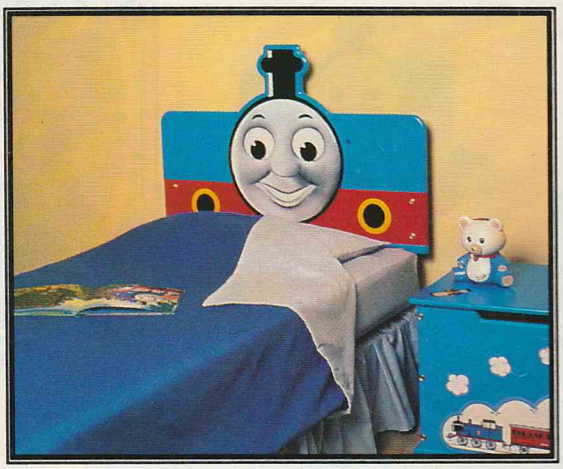
NOTICEBOARD

Trevor the Traction Engine lives in the Vicarage Orchard on the Island of Sodor! The Fat Controller always invites Trevor to attend special fêtes on the Island but Trevor often wishes he could be a Really Useful Engine like Thomas. However, in the story that begins on page 3, Trevor is surprised to discover that he is a Really Useful engine, indeed!

TWO SPLENDID COMPETITIONS!

Don't miss your special chance to win some fabulous prizes in this issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Turn to page **14** for your opportunity to be the lucky winner of a fantastic selection of toys from *ERTL (UK) Ltd*, including a **3-piece Diecast playset**, a **Thomas Remote Control Engine** and a **Thomas Standard Diecast Model**! *(Featured opposite).*

Turn to page **7** for an exclusive chance to win some exciting new products form *AJAYS Ltd.* You can win a **Thomas the Tank Engine Bedhead** *(featured below)* and a **Thomas Toybox**.



HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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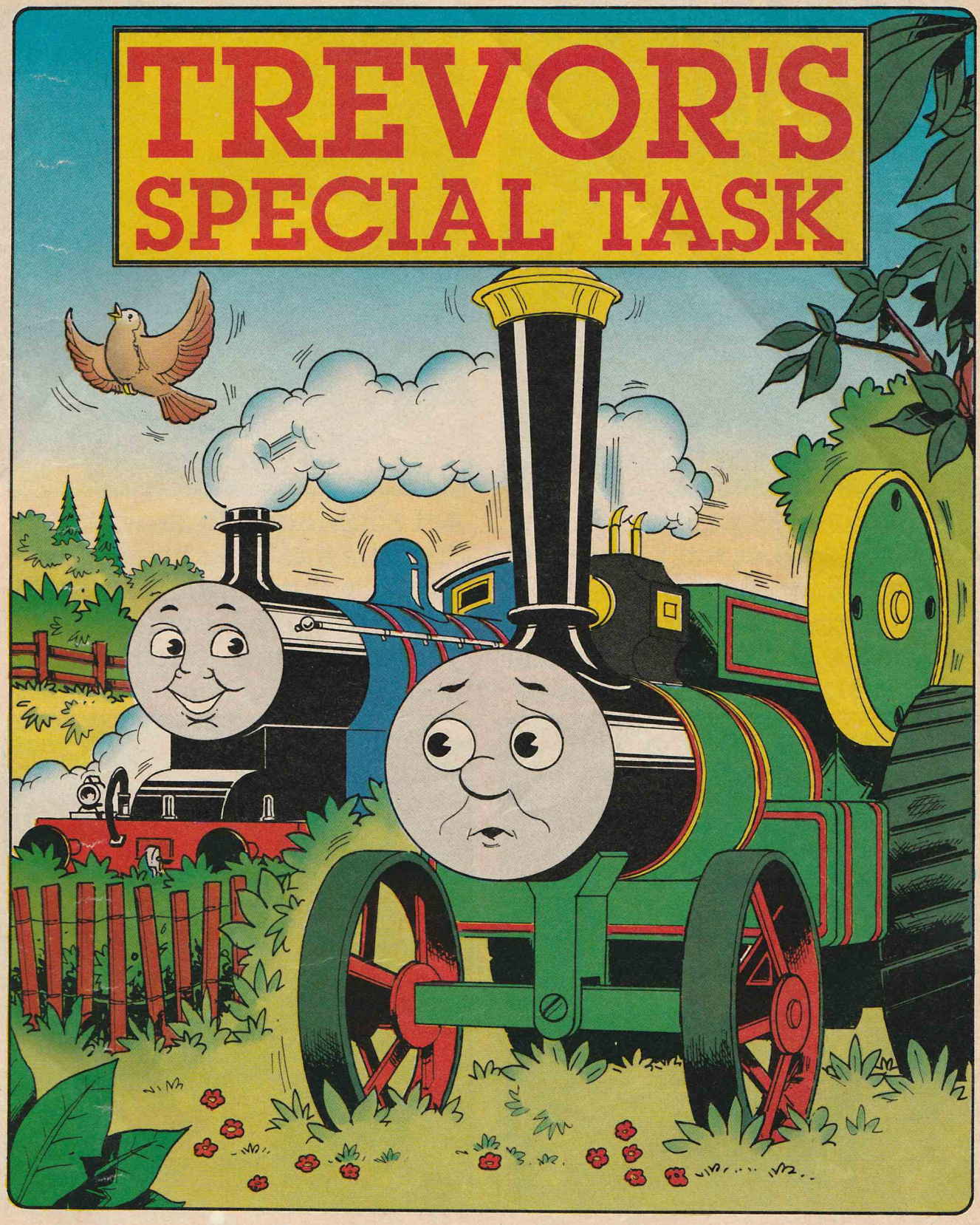
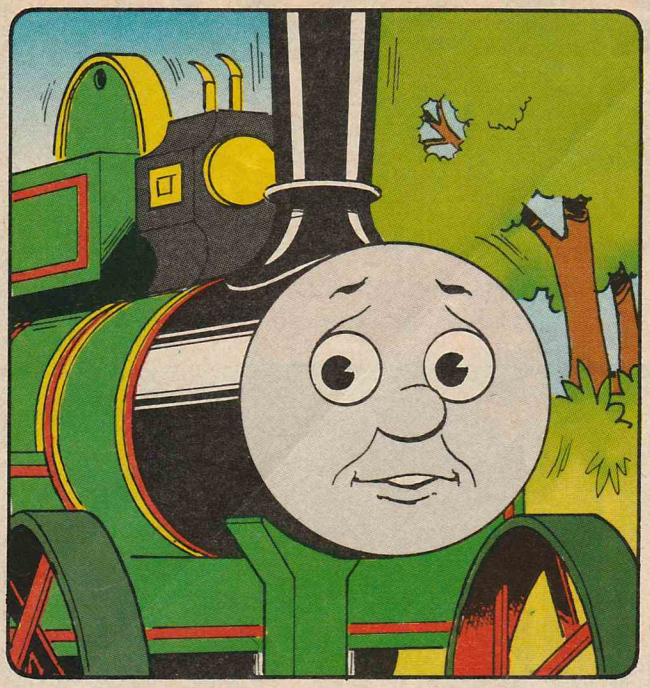
TREVOR'S SPECIAL TASK

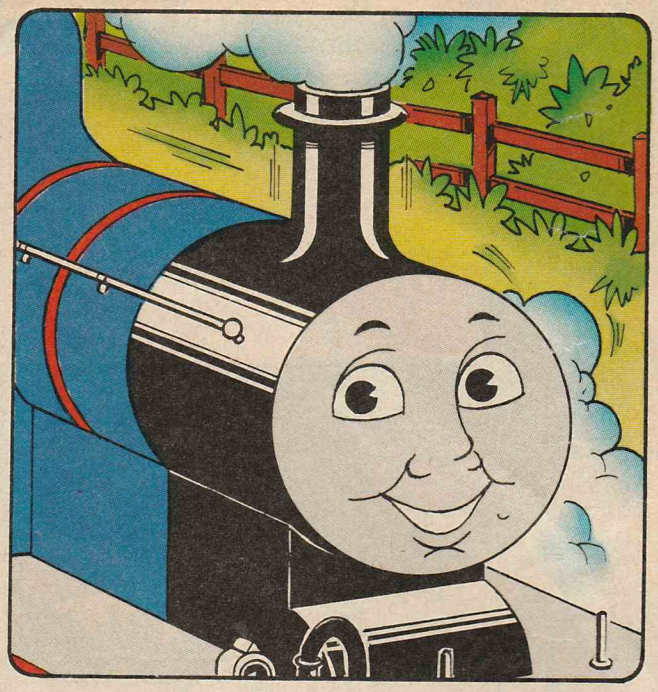


1. One day, Edward was pulling some trucks past the Vicarage Orchard. He stopped to talk to Trevor the Traction Engine. "Hello, Trevor!" tooted Edward. But Trevor looked quite sad.

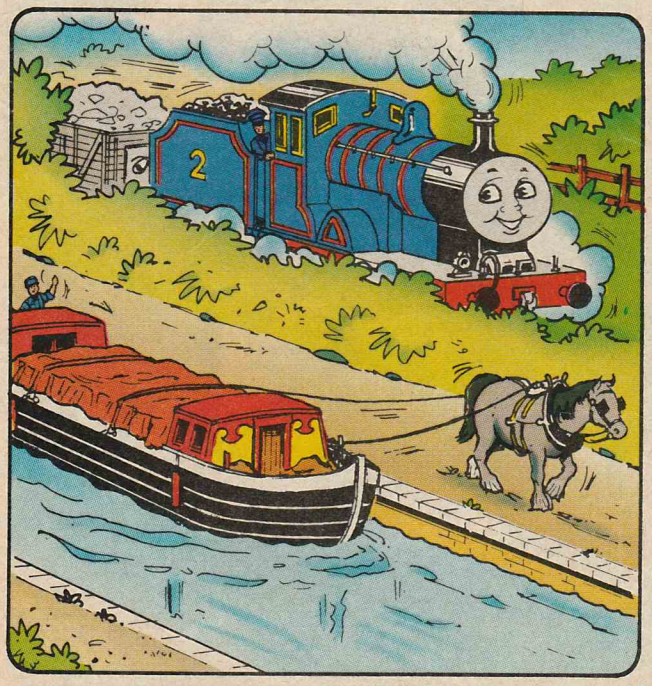
2. "What's the matter?" asked Edward, kindly. Trevor sighed. "It's been such a long time since I've seen my friends. I'm looking forward to our next Vicarage fête"



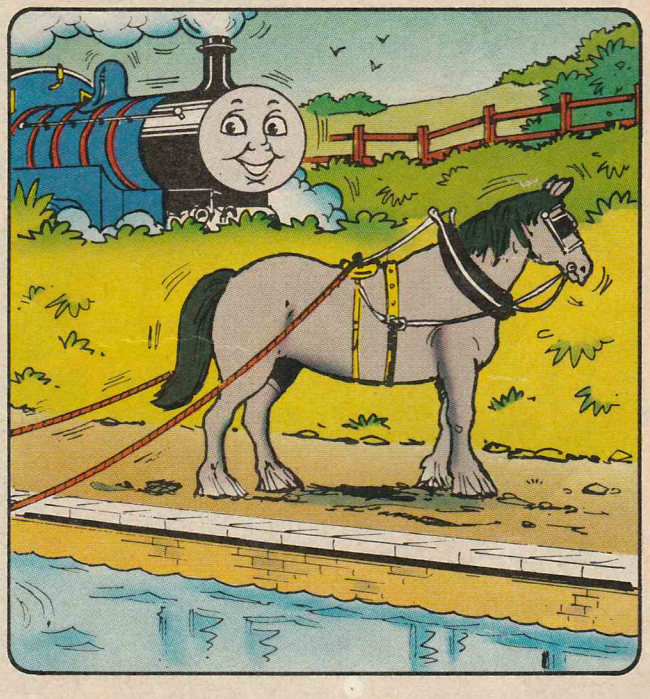
3. "You are lucky Edward! I wish I could travel around and meet people!" Edward knew that Trevor liked to give children rides at the Vicarage fête. But the next one was not for two more weeks.



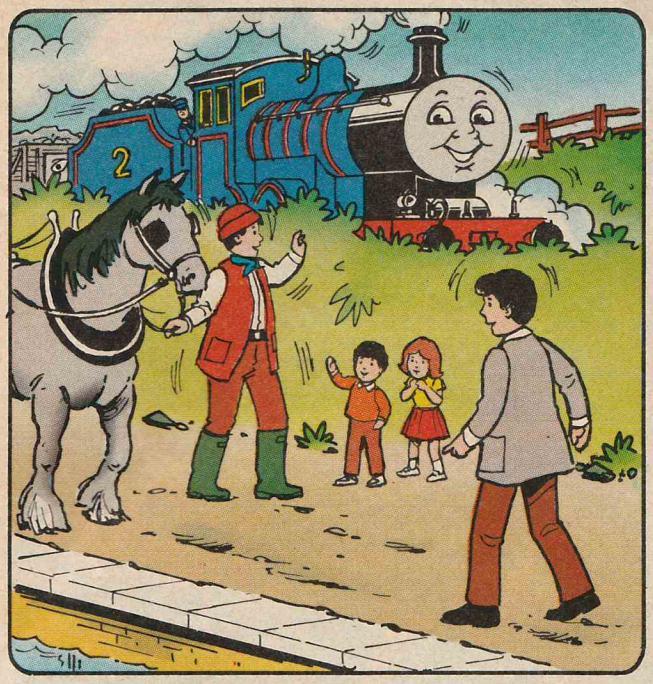
4. "I shall have to leave now, Trevor. I must take these trucks back to the yard!" "Goodbye Edward!" said Trevor. "I hope you will come and see me again!"



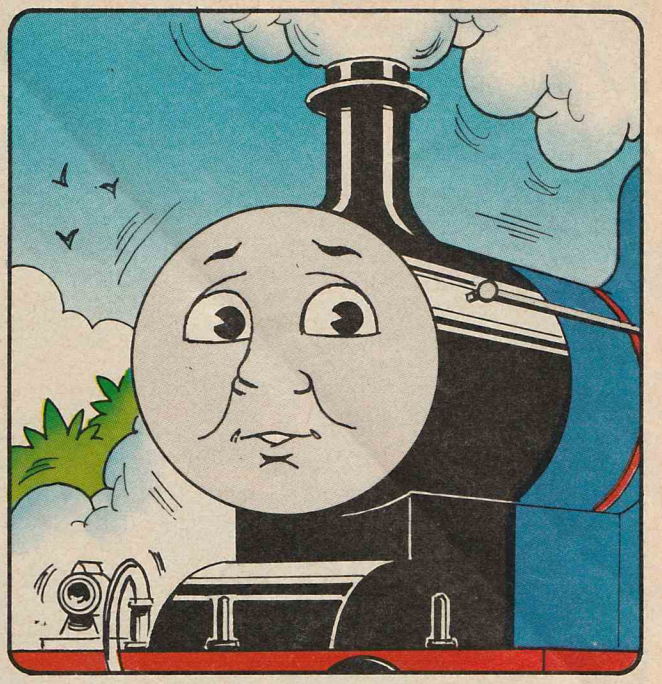
5. Edward set off. "There must be a way to make Trevor happier!" he thought. Not far from the track was a canal with a long, narrow-boat on it. The boat was being pulled by a horse.



6. The boat's skipper waved to Edward. A rope was tied to the canal-boat. The other end of the rope was harnessed to the horse which walked slowly along a tow-path beside the canal.

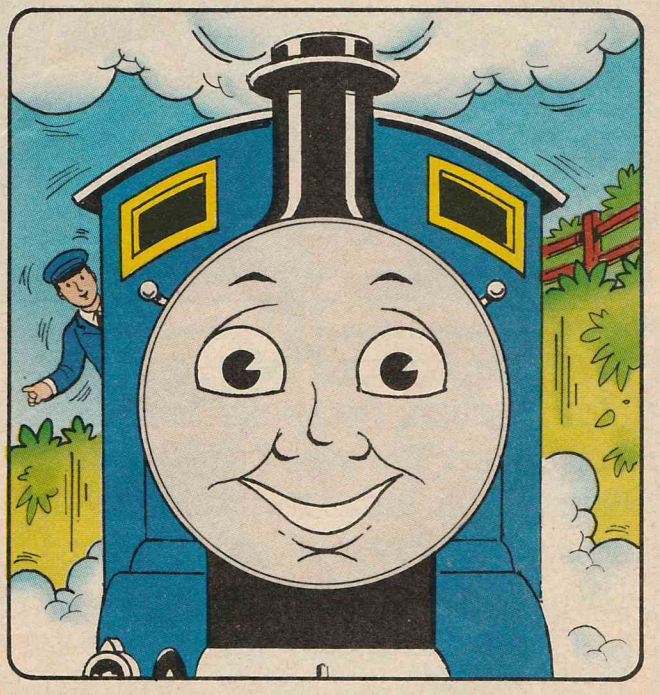


7. Lots of passers-by greeted the skipper and patted his horse. "Old Bessie, my horse, has many friends!" the skipper told Edward's driver. "She really enjoys her work!"

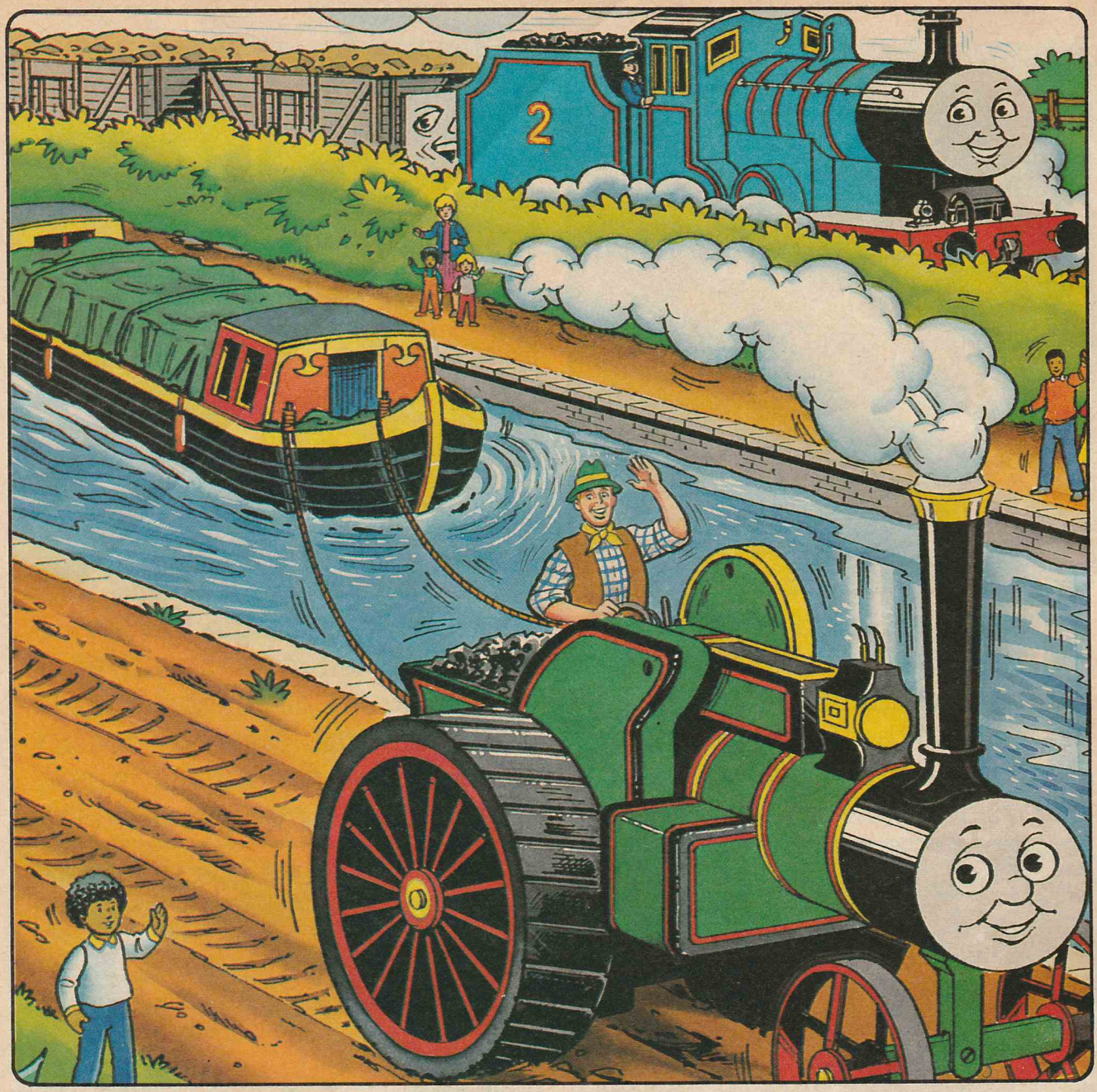


8. Edward was puzzled. "Why do you need a horse to pull your boat up and down the canal? asked Edward. My boat doesn't have a motor!" said his driver. "Bessie does the job just as well!"

9. Next morning, Edward puffed past the canal again. The boat was moored. Edward could not see Bessie. "She's gone to stay at a farm for her holiday!" said his driver. "She needs a rest!"



10. As Edward approached the canal boat, the skipper spoke to him. "I can't move my canal boat while Bessie is away!" Edward had an idea. "I know who could pull the boat!" he tooted.



11. When Edward returned to the Main Station, he spoke to the Fat Controller. "I'm sure Trevor would like to pull the canal-boat while Bessie is away, sir!" said Edward. The Fat Controller agreed. He rang the vicarage and spoke to Trevor's driver, Jem Cole. Jem thought Edward's idea was perfect. So did Trevor! He was excited. Jem polished Trevor's paintwork until it shone!

12. What a splendid sight Trevor looked as he carefully chugged along the tow-path, pulling the canal-boat through the water. A big crowd gathered to watch him. Some children had a ride on Trevor while he worked. When Edward arrived, he was pleased to see Trevor enjoying himself so much. "Hello, Edward!" called Trevor, cheerily. "I am having fun. Thankyou Edward!"

THE END!

In our next issue: Percy learns a lesson!

COMPETITION!

Win a splendid **Thomas the Tank Engine Bedhead** and **Toybox** from ***AJAYS Ltd.***

2 lucky first prize winners will each receive a splendid Thomas **Bedhead** and Thomas **Toybox** and a further 3 runners-up will each win a Thomas **toybox** only.

The **Thomas Bedhead (retail value £48.00)** will fit a standard 3ft Divan, and will be delivered to you in a single flat box. (All fittings supplied).

The **Thomas Toybox(retail value £68.00)** is put together with brass fittings and has been painted in Thomas blue to match the Bed and Bedhead. The Toybox will be delivered to you ready assembled. Winners will receive their prizes from the following address: ***Ajays Ltd, 61 Bailey Gate, Sturminster Marshall, Wimbourne, Dorset, BH21 4DB.***

Thomas Bedheads and Toyboxes to be won!

How to enter:

All you have to do is colour the picture opposite using your brightest crayons and send this page to:

Thomas/Ajays Colouring Competition 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.

Please note that Marvel Comics occasionally makes its mailing list available to a carefully screened list of companies whose products we feel would be of interest. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive these mailings. ☐

Closing date: 1st August 1992

Rules: This competition is open to readers other than employees and their families of AJAYS Ltd., Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd, and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editors decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

A Read Aloud story!

THOMAS TURNS RED!

One bright morning, James steamed out of the engine shed. His red coachwork shone and his brass dome glittered in the sun.

"I am to pull the Express while Gordon is at the Works for a service," he said, proudly.

"I'm sure the Fat Controller chose me because of my splendid red coat. I look so smart!"

"Pah!" huffed Thomas, in the yard. "James is getting too big for his buffers!"
James overheard.

"I'm sorry you are a blue engine, Thomas!" he said. "Really Useful Engines have red paint!"
Thomas was cross.

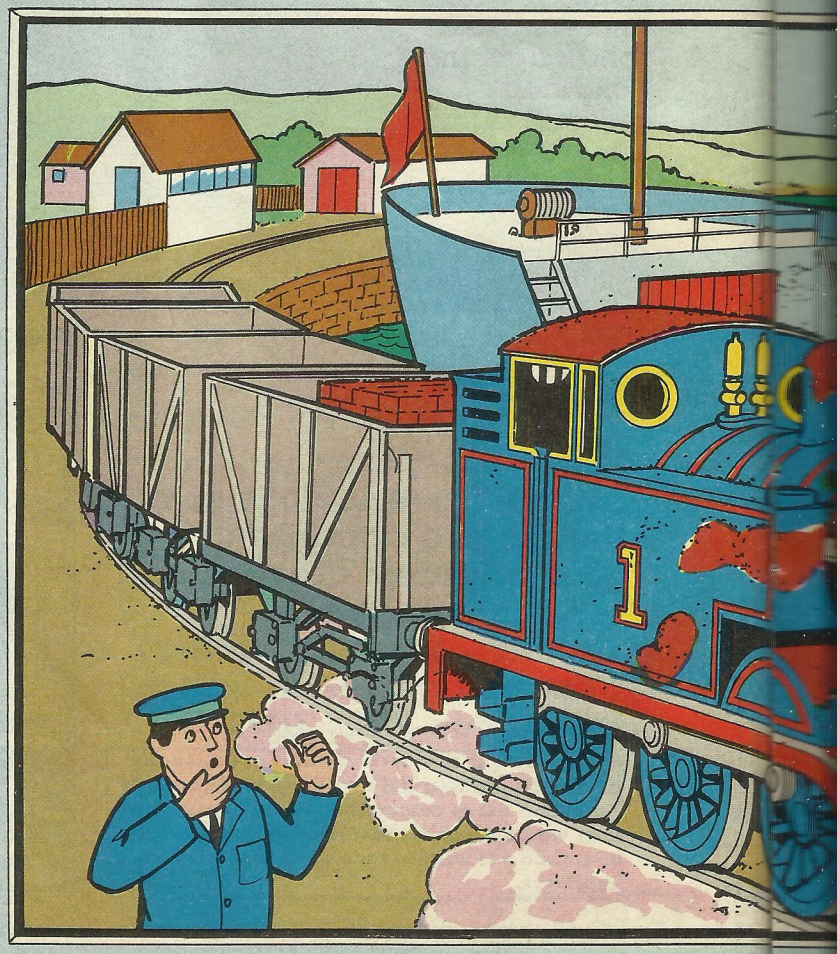
"I'm glad I am a blue engine!" he said. "I may not have red paint but I work just as hard as you!"

"You don't have a shiny brass dome like me!" sniffed James, puffing importantly into the Main Station to pick up the passengers.

Meanwhile, Thomas was coupled to some trucks. The Fat Controller told him to collect a shipment of bricks from the Big Harbour.

"You must deliver them to the builder's yard at Wellsworth!" he said. The trucks were being troublesome. They banged and bumped together.

"Stop that!" said Thomas, grumpily. But the trucks continued to be thoroughly tiresome. A ship moored at the Big Harbour. Thomas puffed slowly alongside and stopped. A crane lifted the bricks out of the ship's hold. Then it loaded them onto Thomas's trucks. The bricks were red. As the crane swung them above Thomas, dust blew off the bricks. It went everywhere



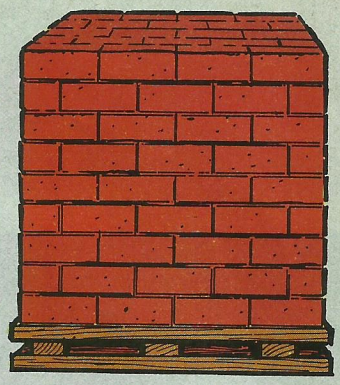
and made Thomas cough.

"Grooch!" he grumbled. "All this brick dust!" At last, his trucks were full and Thomas set off for the builder's yard.

"You'll need a good wash and polish after this delivery!" his driver teased.

"James isn't the only engine who likes to keep his paintwork sparkling clean!" remarked Thomas.

When Thomas arrived at the builder's yard, another crane unloaded all the bricks from Thomas's trucks. They were stacked in big piles nearby. More and more brick dust gathered on Thomas's paintwork. It blew into his eyes and down his funnel. He was covered from his boiler to his coal bunker!



bricks

"Don't worry, Thomas!" said his driver. The job's nearly done. When Thomas returned to the Main Station, James had arrived with the Express.

"Just look at you, Thomas!" sneered James. "The Fat Controller's engines should be clean at all times!"

"I've been busy. That's why I'm covered in thick brick dust!" said Thomas. The Fat Controller approached Thomas.

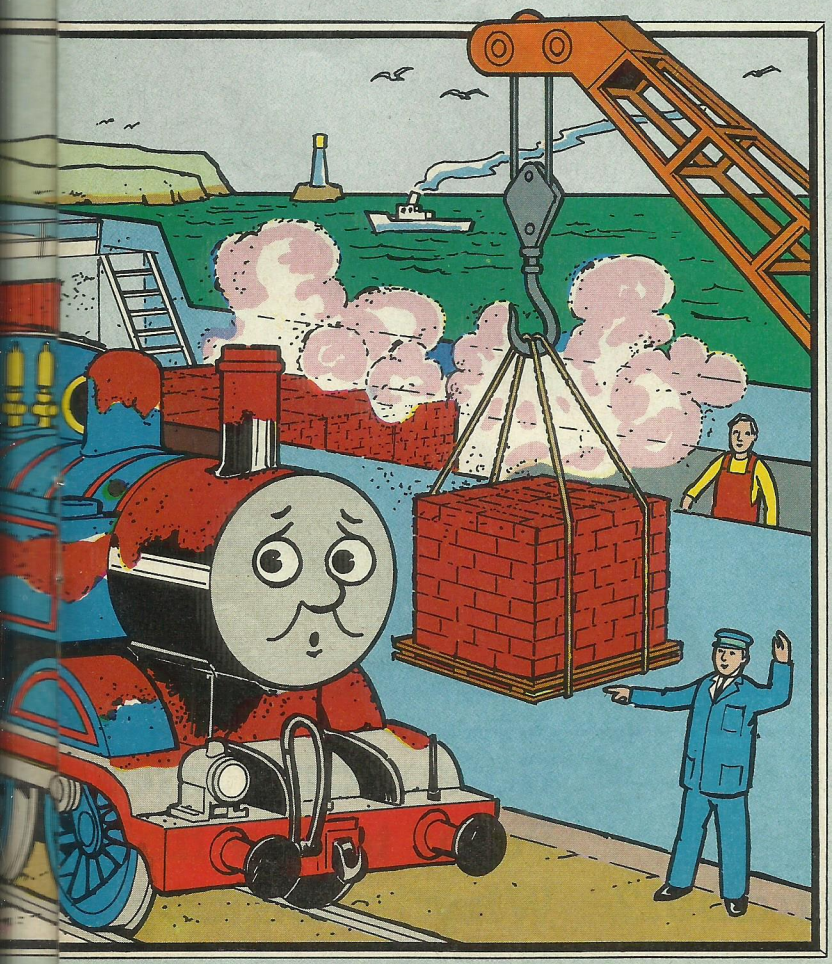
"Good work, Thomas! You are a Really Useful Engine!" he said.

"Thank you, sir!" smiled Thomas, feeling much more cheerful.

"Now! Go to the works and have all that red brick dust washed off! You look as red as James!" added the Fat Controller. "It's your turn to collect the next delivery of bricks this afternoon, James!" said the Fat Controller.

James pulled off in disgust. He did not want to get dirty.

"Now you will be more red than ever," smiled Thomas.



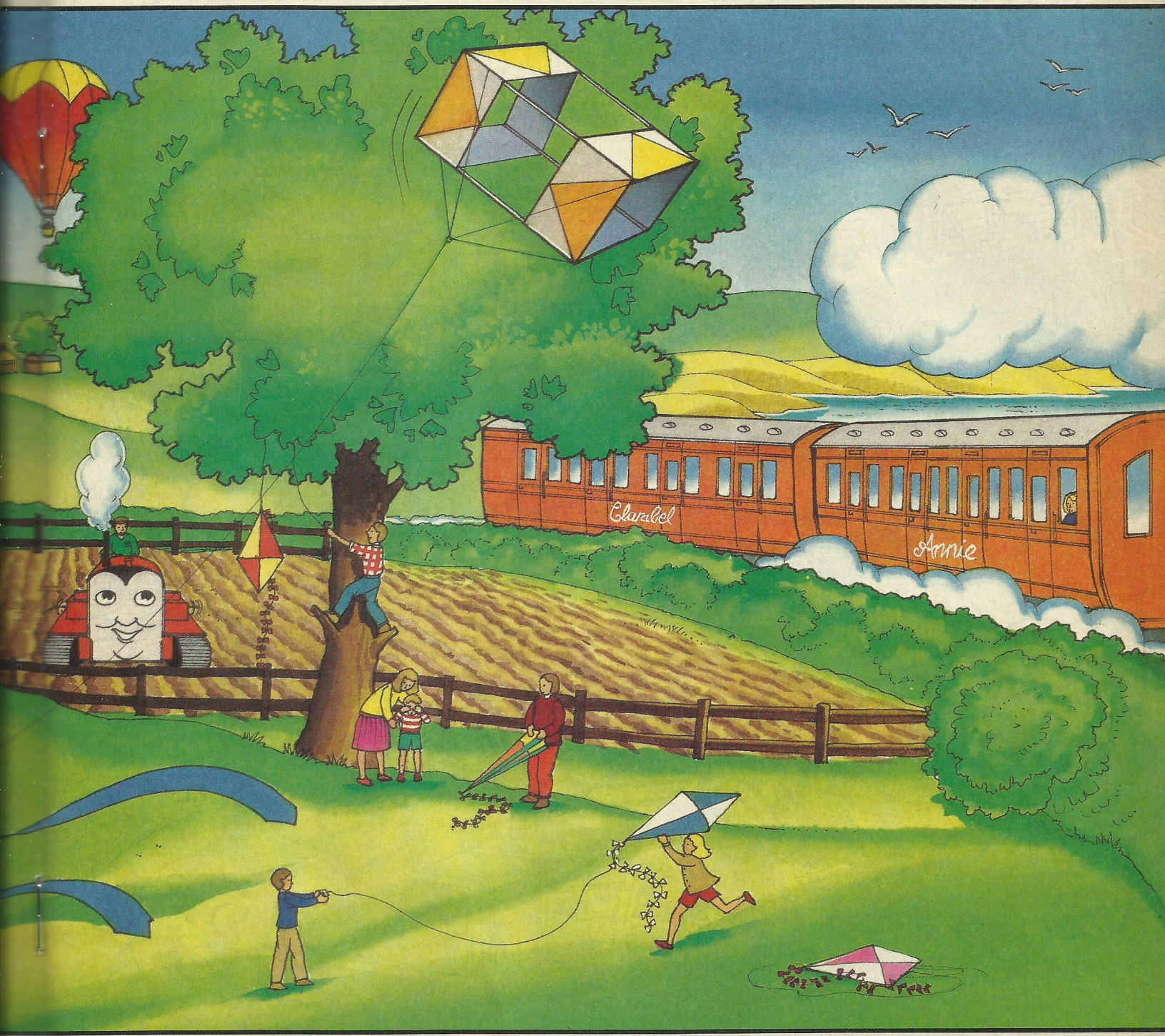
THE END!

Around the k

Which engine can you see?
Where is he working?
Can you see Annie and Clarabel?
What colour are they?

How many kites ca
Point to the hot air
Why is the boy clim
How many people

kite contest!



s can you count?
air balloon!
climbing the tree?
ple are playing in the field?

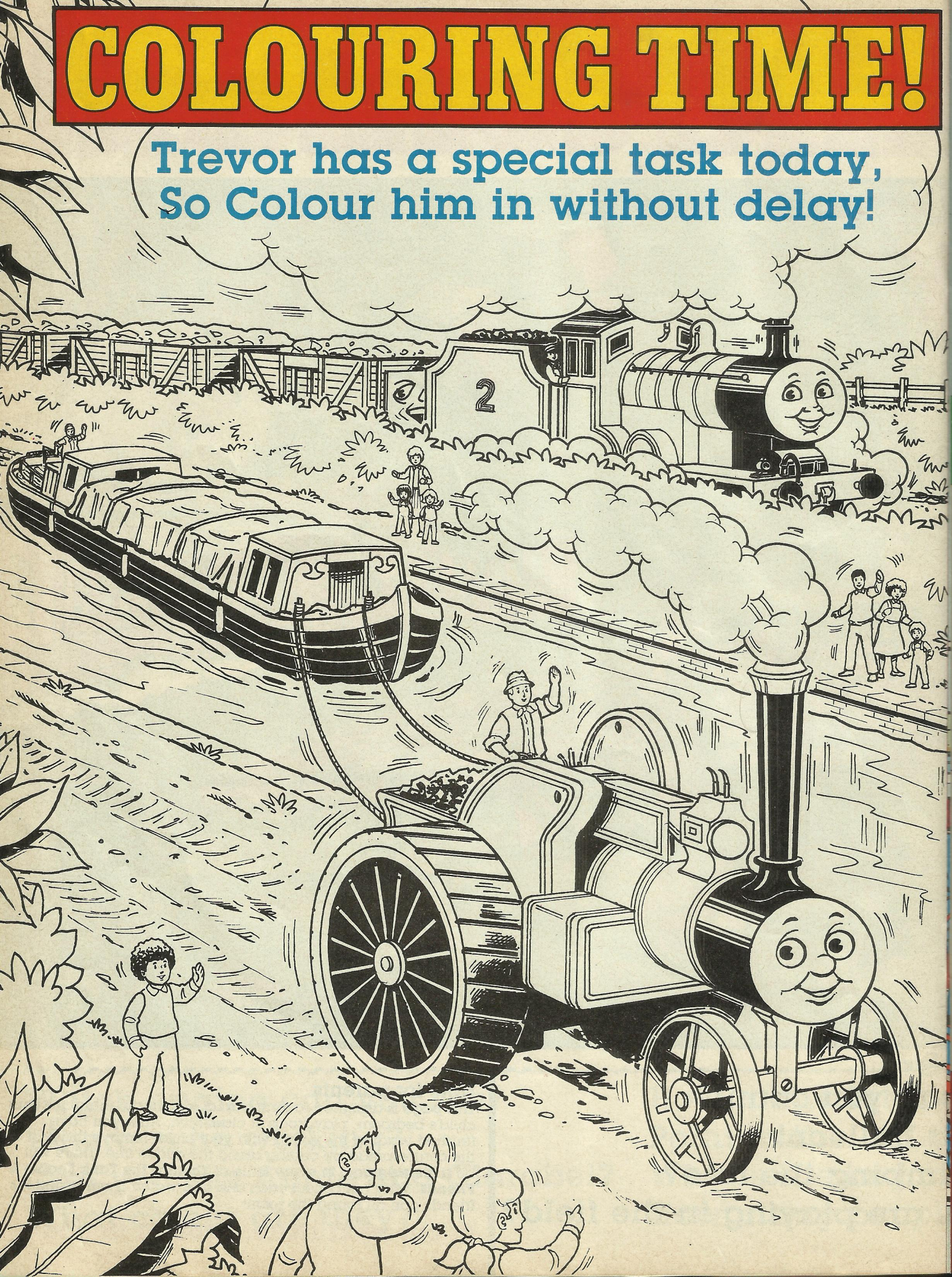
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Around the bay!

COLOURING TIME!

Trevor has a special task today,
So Colour him in without delay!



JOIN THE DOTS!

Thomas is waiting full of good cheer. At last, the holidaymakers appear! How do you think that they got here? Join the dots and it will be clear!

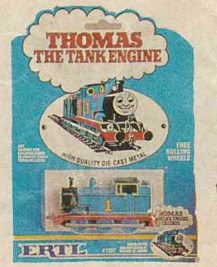
COMPETITION!

You have another chance to win one of the following splendid prizes from ERTL (UK) Ltd.

1ST PRIZE: 12 Thomas the Tank Engine Remote Control Engines!

2ND PRIZE: 24x3 piece Standard Sets including Thomas, Annie and Clarabel!

ERTL®



3RD PRIZE: 24x3 Thomas the Tank Engine Standard Diecast models!

How to enter:

All you have to do is look carefully at both these pictures below. There are five differences! Can you spot them? Once you have circled each difference cut out and send this page to ***Thomas/ERTL Spot the Difference Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.***

PARENT/GUARDIAN
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Surname.....
Address.....
.....
.....
.....**Postcode**.....
Child's Name.....

Boy ☐ **Girl** ☐
Surname.....
Address.....
.....
.....
.....**Postcode**.....

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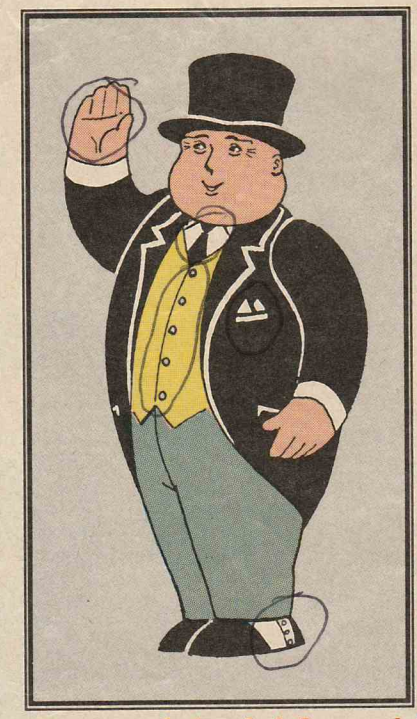
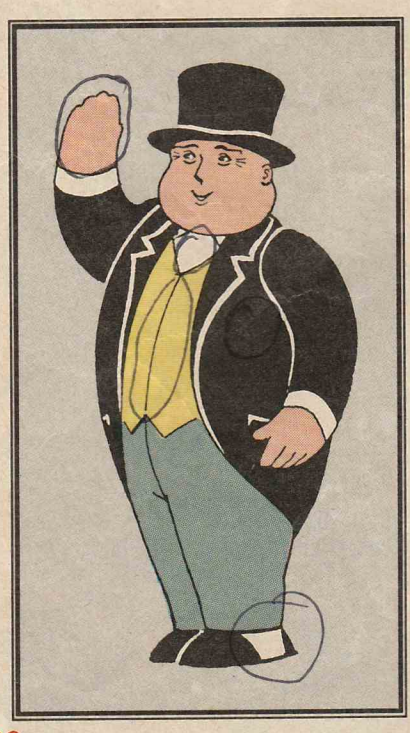
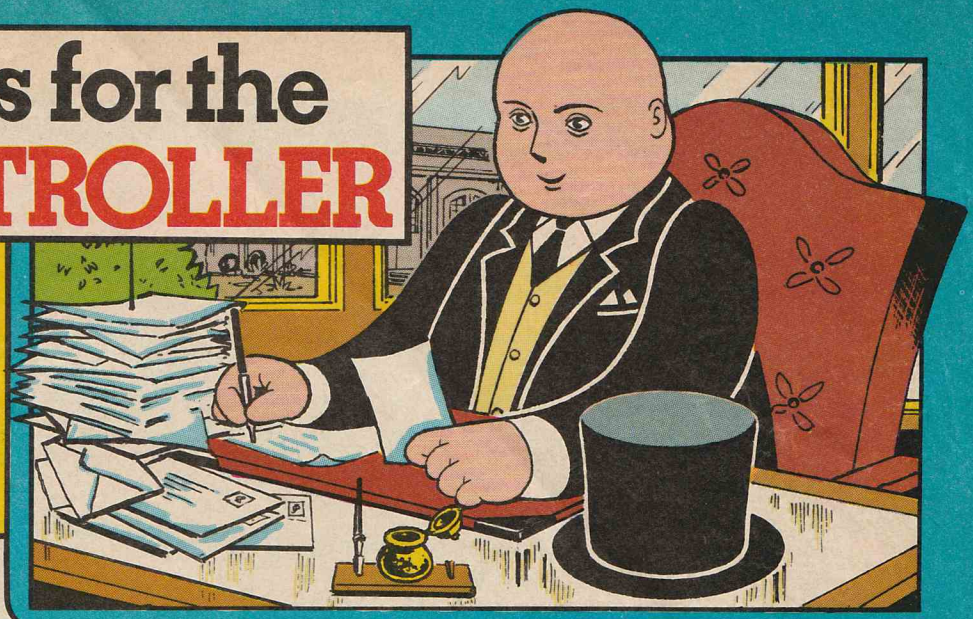




Closing date: 1st August 1992.

Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd., Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd, and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

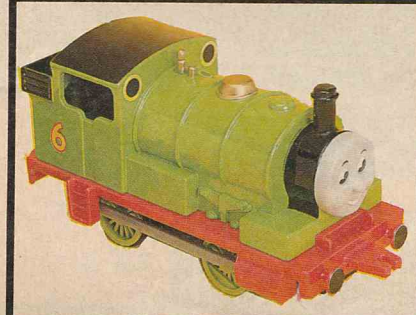
STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Diesel is a naughty engine
He makes the other engines sad.
With his schemes and his tricks
I think he likes to be bad.
Perhaps you could send him away
And make him be good.
So that he behaves as well as he should!

Love from **Iain Matheson**, aged 6.

I've enjoyed reading your splendid rhyme, Do write again, another time! It must be especially pleasing for you, As you have won a splendid prize too!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid motorised model of Percy from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



THE BEST STATION!

Dear Fat Controller,
Our local station in Lowestoft has been closed while a new roof is being built. I look forward to seeing it open again but it will never be as nice as your station with its new 'tea-room'!

Love from **Ross Hodges**, aged 2.

It does sound as if your local station in Lowestoft is maintained very well! I do like to make sure that all my stations are kept in splendid condition.

RAILWAY WORKERS!

Dear Fat Controller,
When I grow up, I would like to come and work on the Island of Sodor Railway as it seems to be very exciting and adventurous. I would like to drive Thomas and meet you too!

Love from **Ronald Curran**, aged 4.

I do agree! It is very exciting to work on the Island of Sodor Railway and I am sure you would make a splendid driver!

BIRTHDAYS!

Steven Thomas Gall, Michael Cameron, Paul Clifford Hodgson (28053), Luke Hamill, Natalie Marie Jankowski (33047), Rosina Cochrane, James Nobbs, Richard Deuttenburg, Matthew Bone, Richard Stevenson (37967), Sean Bryant, Stuckeley Garner (31098), Joe Donnelly (38746), Philip Gillies (36496), Fredrick Sharvell, Adam Brostet (35439), Suzanne Naomi Turton (38520), Tsutomu Saito,

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours

Sir Topham Hatt

The Fat Controller!

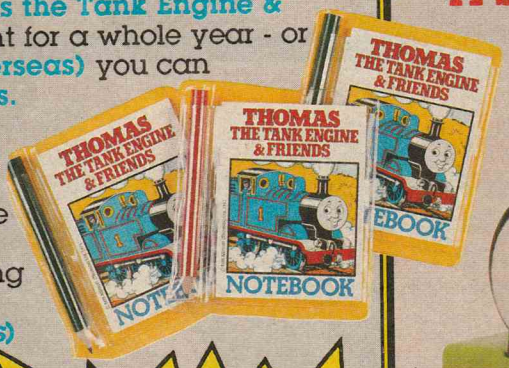
Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

Subscribe!

Subscribe to Thomas's very own magazine and receive a splendid diecast model of Percy from ERTL®

For just **£18.00 (35.00 overseas)**, your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year - or for **£10.00 (£18.00 overseas)** you can subscribe for **6 months**. **Additionally**, if you subscribe for a **whole year (UK subscribers only)** you will receive a **FREE Percy diecast model** plus a charming **notebook** and **pencil** ***(see opposite pictures)*** and personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling you to enter offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders. Simply fill out the appropriate form below!



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SUBSCRIPTION FORM ▼

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THE THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE CLUB

- Bumper Membership Pack
- A birthday card from Thomas
- Further mailings during the year
- Club Newsletter ' The Thomas Times' with each mailing

Send your name, address and date of birth together with your cheque for £9.95 or credit card details to: **Thomas The Tank Engine Club, Dept. Marvel, PO Box 96, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2PO**
or alternatively telephone (0491) 411500 with credit card details.

N.B. For applications from outside the UK, Eire and the Channel Islands, please add £5 to the above price. Only sterling accepted.

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Child's Name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Donor's name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Date of birth.....Boy/Girl.

PAYMENT (*delete as necessary)
*1. **Cheque:** I enclose my cheque/postal order for £.....
(payable to MARVEL COMICS LTD)
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Signature.....Date.....

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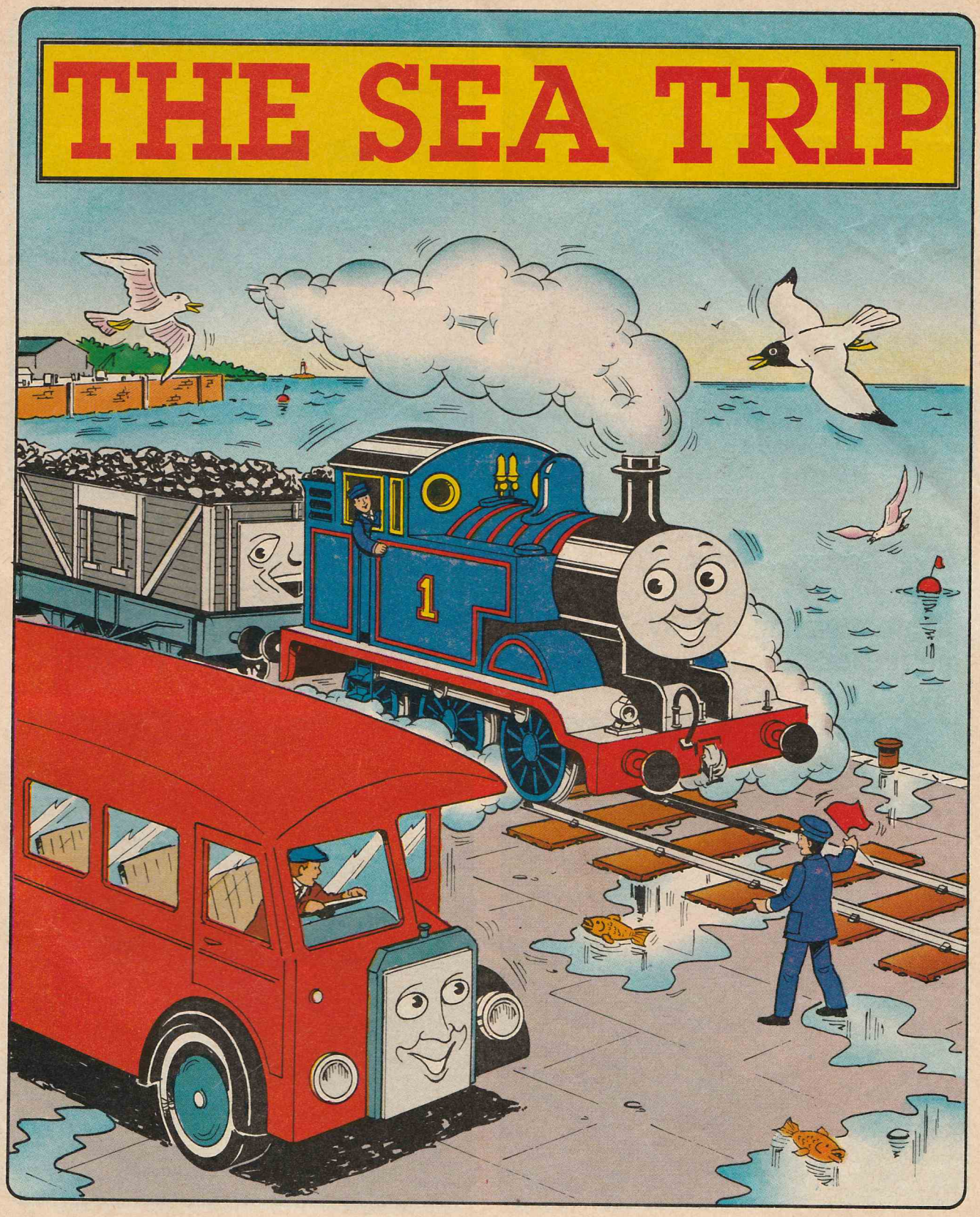
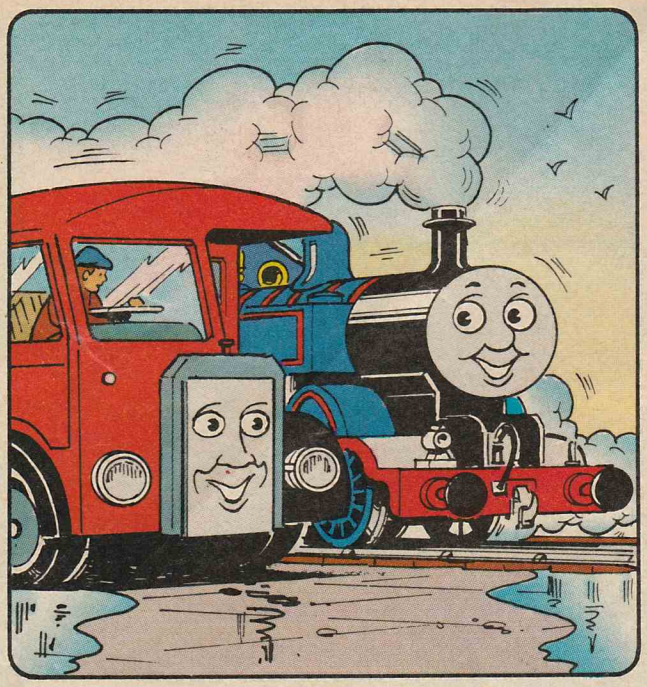
To apply for either subscription please fill out the appropriate section above and send this form, together with a cheque/postal order or credit card details to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester LE99 0AA.**

THE SEA TRIP

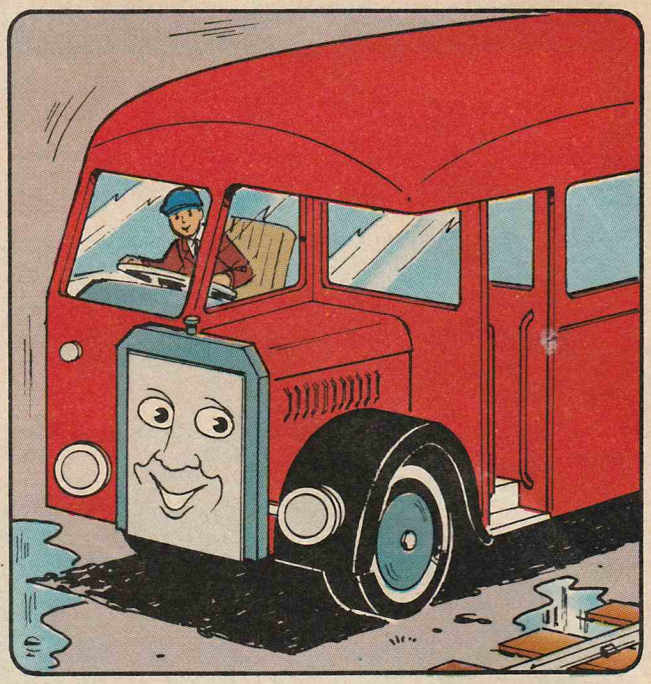


1. One morning, Thomas was sent to the Big Harbour to collect some coal trucks. He backed into a siding to be coupled to the trucks. While Thomas waited, he saw Bertie the Bus arriving.

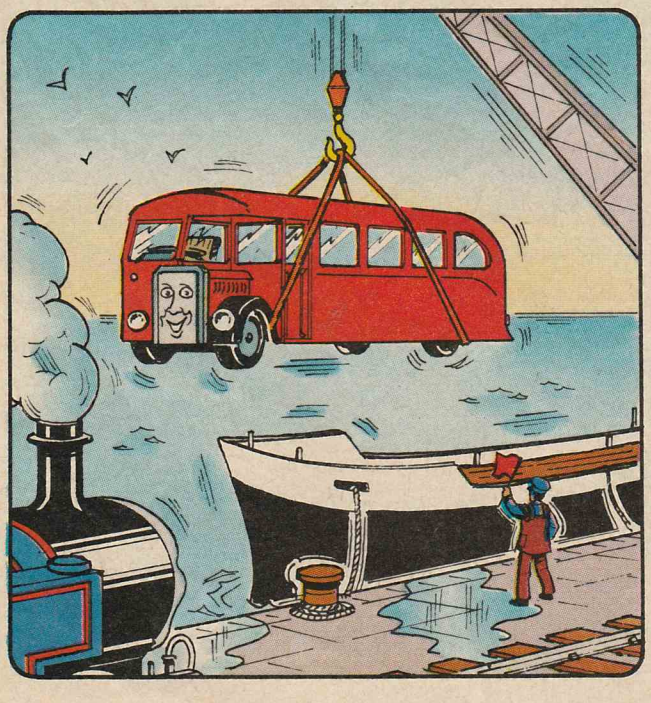
2. Thomas was puzzled. Bertie was not carrying any passengers and he looked very smart. His red paintwork shone in the sun. "Hello, Bertie! What are you doing here?" called Thomas.



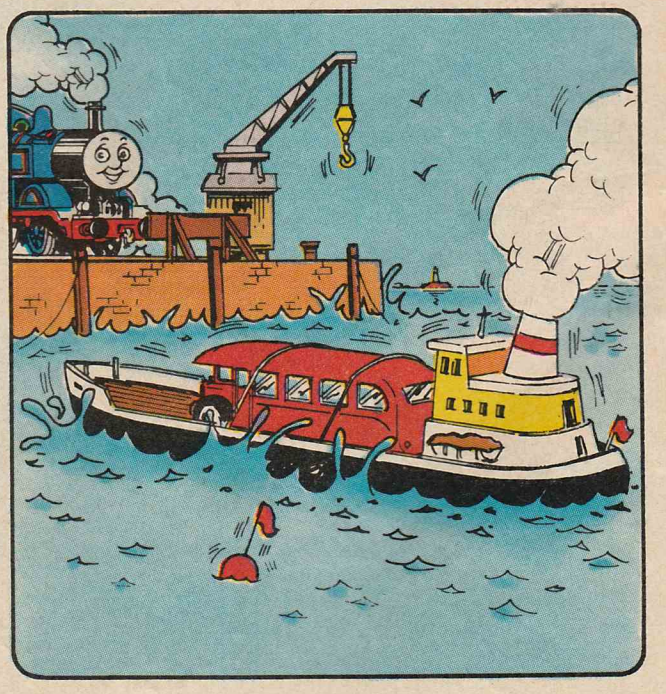
3. "A harbour is no place for a bus," added Thomas. "There isn't a bus stop here!" Bertie smiled. "I'm not working today, Thomas!" he replied. "I'm going to a motor show on the mainland!"



4. "What for?" asked Thomas. "I am to be put on display because I have to replace the mainland bus which is being serviced this morning. I am very excited indeed!" said Bertie.

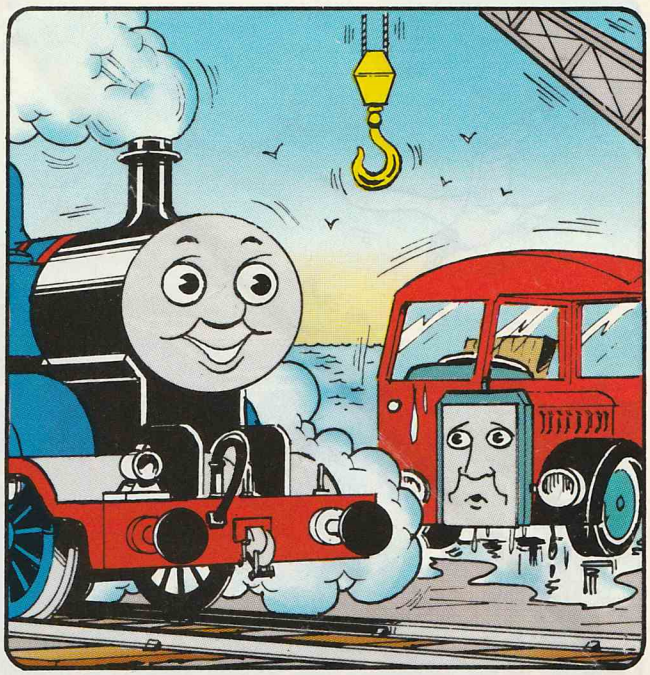


5. Thomas thought Bertie was showing off. When the boat arrived and a big crane lifted Bertie on to its deck for the trip to the mainland. "Goodbye, Thomas!" said Bertie, "See you tomorrow!"

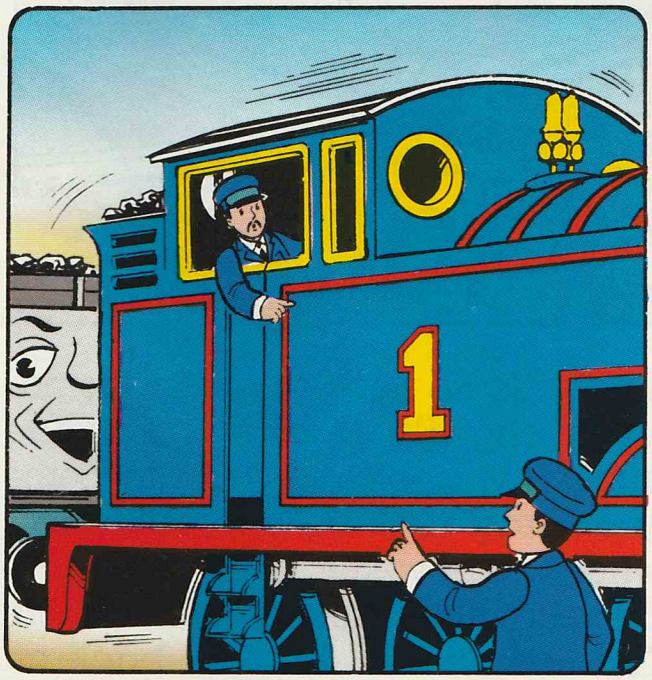


6. Next morning, Thomas was shunting trucks at the harbour. It was a windy day. The sea was rough. Thomas saw a ship approaching the harbour. He saw Bertie tied to the deck by ropes.

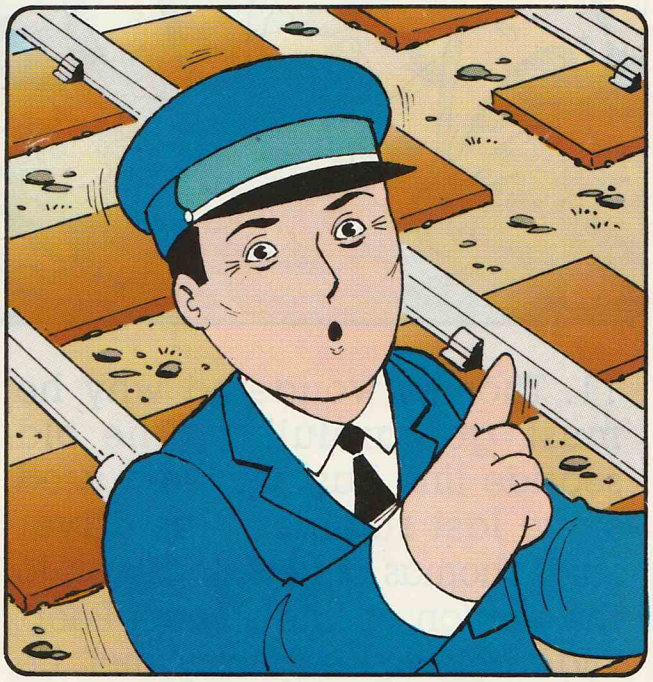
7. Bertie felt the ship toss and turn. Big, cold waves splashed over him. Bertie was very wet and he was relieved when the ship finally docked and he could feel the road under his wheels once again.



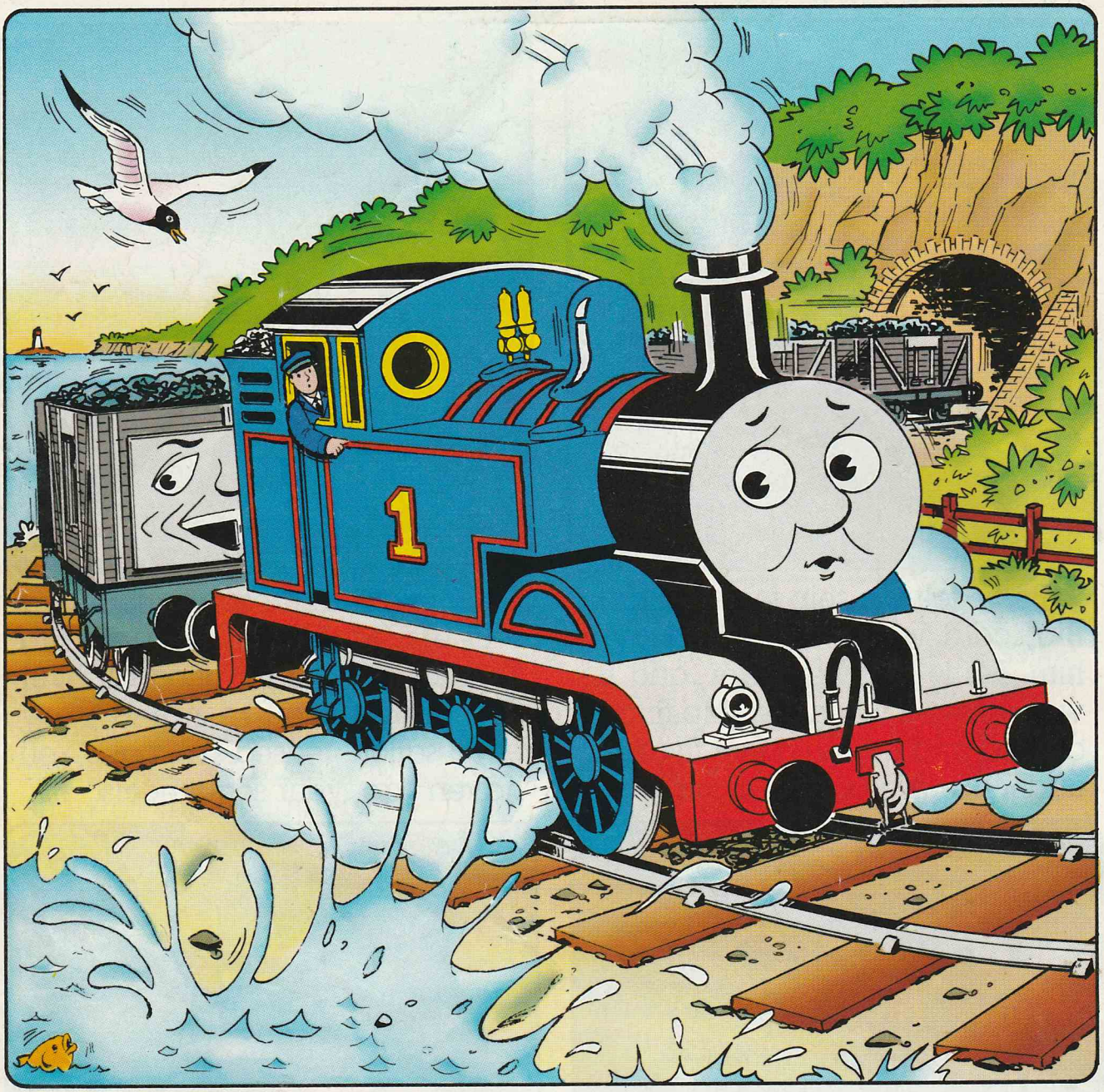
8. "Phew! That crossing made my wheels wobble. Bertie told Thomas. "The ship rolled all over the place! "You're not a very good sailor!" teased Thomas. "You haven't got your sea-wheels!"



9. "Wheels aren't meant to go on the sea. Thank goodness!" said Bertie, and drove off. Later, the Harbour Stationmaster warned Thomas's driver there had been a derailment on the main line.



10. Thomas had to return to the Main Station with his trucks. But the line was blocked. "You will have to use the seaside line!" the stationmaster said. "Go very carefully!"



11. Thomas wondered why he must 'go carefully'. "The old seaside line has not been used since last summer," his driver said. Thomas puffed slowly on to the section of line. "Peep! Peep! Old track doesn't worry me!" he whistled. But many of the wooden sleepers underneath the rails were loose. The sleepers moved up and down on the soft earth as Thomas went over them.

12. The loose sleepers made Thomas sway slightly to and fro on the track. It was a very high tide. Some sea spray trickled over Thomas's wheels. The wetter he became and the more he rocked about, the more Thomas wished he was back on firm, dry rails. Later, Thomas met Bertie back at the Main Station. "I'm sorry I teased you Bertie" Thomas said. "I haven't got my sea-wheels, either!"

THE END!

In our next issue: The Most modern!